



# FACT SHEET

## The Superfund Branch

The [Superfund Branch](#) of the Kentucky Division of Waste Management is charged with protecting human health and the environment from the release of hazardous substances into the environment.

The program seeks to ensure that contaminated sites are evaluated and cleaned up to reduce risks posed to human health and the environment. In most cases this means overseeing companies or individuals who have taken responsibility for cleaning up contamination found on their property. In cases where a responsible party cannot be found or is unable to act, the branch may take a direct role in cleaning up a site using the Hazardous Waste Management Fund. This fund is generated by imposing an annual fee on anyone who engages in the generation of hazardous waste.

The Superfund program also coordinates the [certification of methamphetamine lab cleanup contractors](#) and provides technical assistance to contractors and the public. The primary purpose of the program is to ensure that meth lab properties are properly decontaminated so they can be safely re-occupied by future buyers or tenants.

Remediation of contaminated sites at the majority of federal facilities is overseen by the division's [Hazardous Waste Branch](#).

The Superfund Branch is divided into five sections:

**Federal Superfund Section** – This section works with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to determine if a site is eligible for emergency response or cleanup under the [federal Superfund Program](#). It also provides technical and administrative support to EPA for those hazardous waste sites in Kentucky that qualify for the National Priority List. The Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant (a U.S. Department of Energy facility) is overseen by the [Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant Section](#) in the division's Hazardous Waste Branch. The Federal Superfund Section is working to encourage redevelopment of [brownfields](#), abandoned, idled or underused industrial and commercial facilities where expansion or redevelopment is complicated by real or perceived environmental contamination. The Federal Section also works with the Army Corps of Engineers to discover and address the environmental issues at Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS) across Kentucky.

**Maxey Flats Section** – This section conducts environmental monitoring (surface and ground water), radiological monitoring, and maintenance activities at [Maxey Flats](#), a low-level radioactive waste disposal site in Fleming County. Monitoring and maintenance of the Maxey Flats Disposal Site will continue into perpetuity. This section is also required to perform work in accordance with Radioactive Materials License (206-002-03) and the Maxey Flats Consent Decree signed in 1996.

**State Superfund Section** – This section addresses sites that are not eligible for the federal Superfund program. The members of this section identify sites where a release or threatened release of hazardous substances, pollutants or contaminants has occurred, and provide oversight for the investigation and remediation of the sites. They provide immediate response to environmental emergencies. In cases where a responsible party cannot be found or is unable to act and the site represents an imminent threat to human health and the environment, the section may take a direct role in conducting the investigation and remediation at the site under state-lead action.

**Petroleum Cleanup Section** – This section addresses sites with releases of petroleum and petroleum products, except for those releases from regulated underground storage tanks (those are regulated by the division's [Underground Storage Tank Branch](#)). The section oversees the investigation and cleanup of petroleum releases by responsible parties.

**Risk Assessment Section** – The Risk Assessment Section serves as a technical resource for the Superfund Branch and other Division of Waste Management branches. Section staff review risk assessments and other environmental data, evaluate contaminated sites for their potential to cause adverse impacts and make recommendations for eliminating or mitigating risks to human health and the environment.

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